

Adult Stimulus Fund Questions

- Since we have a partnership in our District and our monies are allocated in a particular way, we always do individual POP's (Job Service POP, YWCA POP & a District Roll-up POP. Will stimulus funding POP's be handled in the same way (including a roll-up)? *Yes, please handle the same way as you do your regular formula funds.*
- As far as *total numbers to be served* with Stimulus Funds, do you want to see similar numbers served proportional to our regular formula funds (i.e., a similar cost per participant)? *This is such a guessing game.... I guess the best advice I could give you would be start with the regular cost per participant and maybe adjust if needed. Keeping in mind that you will only have this extra funding for one year, so may want to concentrate on trainings that are shorter (one year or less) and more certificate based trainings rather than degree type of training.*
- When will we know if the reduced eligibility guidelines (i.e., going with "under" self-sufficiency instead of "80%" of self-sufficiency) are accepted? Are we awaiting approval from our SWIB? *The executive committee is meeting this morning at 10 and we will know right after that. We anticipate they will approve the request so as soon as we know, we'll let you know! 3/20/09 Update – State board approved expansion of Adult eligibility for ARRA program on 3/19/09.*
- When you say that 70% of the funds must go directly to clients, can case management and in-house computer training be funded with that 70%? Please provide more direction regarding what is included with the 70%? *We are talking about how to record this as a participant cost rather than staffing..... the job service does this very same thing and we had some brief discussions surrounding this so we'll let you know what we come up with. I'm not so sure how we'll handle this but my opinion (and that doesn't matter sometimes) would be that we should be able to track this as a participant cost. 3/20/09 Update - You can count the training staff do for participants and a participant cost but case management staffing must be broken out as an administrative cost.*
- What expectations will be placed upon program operators to assist Stimulus participants once the funds are depleted at the end of March 2010? I know we have the option to co-enroll in our regular programs, but what if we don't have the slots to co-enroll or additional dollars available in our regular formula funding? *Like I said earlier, shorter trainings that are certificate based should be the focus for these stimulus participants because you really cannot count on being able to serve them past one year. Being up front with the people in the beginning will also help - make sure they understand it is only for one year's time.*
- I understand our performance measurements will be the same as those with our existing formula funds. However, how will these measurements be made and will we be held to measurements which won't happen some until years in the future (retention/average earnings)? Our office would like to increase enrollments in Big Horn County since unemployment rates are so much higher there and there is such an economic need. Unfortunately, wages are significantly lower in the county and full-time hours are not always provided to those who receive training and then secure employment. Consequently, we always feel torn regarding enrolling large numbers of individuals from Big Horn County. Could this be a good use of spending Stimulus dollars (serving more of these "hardest to serve"

individuals if we can get them trained and employed)? I think this certainly is a good use of the Stimulus dollars but as far as we know, the regular performance measures will count toward these exited participants. This isn't very good advice or clear..... Performance is really important for us to keep receiving funding but at the same time, we do not have any kind of control over the outcomes as they are now... Especially with the new WISPR reporting - where we roll all programs into one reporting system.....